



ENVISION ARLINGTON FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 7:30 PM 2/20/20

Town Manager's Conference Room, Town Hall

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), Jonathan Haughton, Brian Hasbrouck, Heather Remoff, Pete Howard (Secretary), Deputy Town Manager Sandy Pooler

Primer: Gordon thanked all for their efforts to complete Citizens Corner #9 that recently appeared in the Advocate in the editorial space. Jonathan agreed to edit it as necessary to be added to the Primer. Gordon will provide him the current version of the Primer.

Long Range Plan: Sandy provided hard copies of Arlington's Long Range Plan. He also used the built-in projection system to display a live version of the plan that he could manipulate from a hand held device to illustrate the effect on the bottom line of changes in financial input variables. The plan shows 6 revenue sources and 11 appropriations. The plan is the key document used by the Manager and the other Town leaders to reach agreement on the many choices that must be made annually to set fiscal policy. The bottom line on the Plan is the balance between revenue and appropriations. The plan uses various means to estimate revenue for the next fiscal year and the following 5 fiscal years. The plan uses various inflation assumptions to predict future appropriations. One important use of the plan is to demonstrate the use of the override stabilization fund on the bottom line. Currently the override stabilization fund will be added to revenue in FY22 and FY 23 to balance the budget. It will be expended in FY24 with a deficit of \$7m or 3.5%. An important use of the Plan is to decide the balance between school and non-school appropriations. Sandy described the tools used to adjust the school appropriation to the variable enrollment. Sandy used the display to show the effect of free cash, new growth, state aid and school enrollment on the bottom line. The group, feeling much better informed, thanked Sandy for a fascinating evening.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Next mtg March 19, 2020

Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Usually in the Senior Center